



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

March 6, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nancy Boettger, Temporary
Cochairperson
Senator Dennis Black
Senator Bill Fink
Senator Eugene Fraise
Senator Jack Holveck
Senator Steve King
Senator Maggie Tinsman

Representative Willard Jenkins, Temporary
Cochairperson
Representative Paul Bell
Representative Jack Drake
Representative Chuck Gipp
Representative Jane Greimann
Representative Vicky Lensing
Representative Paul Scherrman

MEETING IN BRIEF

.....

Organizational staffing
provided by: Patty Funaro,
Senior Legal Counsel
(515) 281-3040

Minutes prepared by: Patty
Funaro, Senior Legal
Counsel
(515) 281-3040

- I. **Procedural Business.**
 - II. **Canadian Visit.**
 - III. **International Relations Advisory Council.**
 - IV. **Information on Upcoming Activities.**
 - V. **Next Meeting.**
-

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Temporary Cochairperson Jenkins at 8:07 in Committee Room 24 of the Statehouse and adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

II. Canadian Visit.

The Temporary Cochairpersons thanked the members of the Committee and the Legislative Information Office for their assistance in making the visit by the members of the Saskatchewan Parliament successful.

III. International Relations Advisory Council.

Background. The Committee reviewed the provisions under Chapter 2D of the Code, which establishes the International Relations Advisory Council and the positions of Executive Branch Protocol Officer and Legislative Branch Protocol Officer.

Council Role. The Committee determined that the members of the International Relations Advisory Council are to act as resources to the executive and legislative branches in international relations activities. The membership should be broad-based and it is not expected that the entire membership will meet on a regular basis, but that various members will be called upon as resources as the appropriate opportunity presents itself.

Council Priorities. Ms. Valentina Fominykh, Executive Branch Protocol Officer, suggested that the Committee prioritize the activities required of the International Relations Advisory Council as specified by law. Ms. Fominykh suggested four initial priorities:

1. Develop a comprehensive state policy and define the state's role in the international relations arena.
2. Compile reference materials and a listing of resources to be available to policymakers and the public in preparing for international relations activities and travel. It is important to establish a centralized location for briefing materials.
3. Sponsor an annual state summit. This is long-term goal and is a huge undertaking.
4. Coordinate international relations activities. Begin with coordination of international relations activities of the legislative and executive branches.

The Committee determined that the protocol officers and the Cochairpersons should meet to work out the details of implementation of the priorities and then subcommittees will be selected to work on the priorities.

Membership Recommendations. The Committee discussed specific recommendations for membership of the Advisory Council. The members agreed to submit their lists of recommendations to staff or to the Temporary Cochairpersons by Friday, March 9, 2001. The lists will then be forwarded to the Legislative Council for approval of members. In lieu of a formal meeting of the Legislative Council, leaders may approve the membership under rules adopted by the Legislative Council.

IV. Information on Upcoming Activities.

Press Releases. Representative Lensing suggested that press releases be developed to announce future international visits.

IDED Activities. Ms. Kathy Hill, Iowa Department of Economic Development, noted that she will be leaving on an official state visit to Thailand the week of March 12. She informed the Committee that the Pork Expo in June will include international visitors and that she would appreciate the involvement of members of the Committee in hosting the visitors at a traditional Iowa meal. Ms. Hill also noted that a group of Foreign Service nationals will visit Iowa in June and hosts will be needed.

V. Next Meeting.

Temporary Cochairperson Jenkins suggested that the next meeting agenda include presentations from Sister States and the Iowa Council for International Understanding.

3404LC